

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, and 42-58 were pending in the application.

Claims 37, 42, 43, and 47-58 were allowed.

Claims 1-6, 28-30, and 44-46 were rejected.

Claim 44 has been canceled.

Claims 1, 45, and 46 have been amended.

Claims 59-67 have been added.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7, 28-30, 37, and 42, 43, and 45-67 is respectfully requested in view of the following.

The Prior Amendments To The Specification:

The 2nd full paragraph on page 8 of the original disclosure was objected to because of a number of informalities. Note that the 2nd full paragraph on page 8 of the specification was previously amended in the amendment filed on June 7, 2002 to correct the typographical errors noted in the Office Action. Therefore, no further correction is required.

The Objections To The Drawing Figures:

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to illustrate the "expanded tubular members of claims 1 and 46."

As illustrated in Figs. 2-3, and described on pages 8 and 9 of the specification, the tubular members 205 and 215 are threadably coupled and radially expanded using the expansion cone 310.

The Rejection of Claims 1-6, 28-30, 45 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-6, 28-30, 45, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Patrick (U.S. 4,711,474). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Patrick generally discloses pipe joint seal rings. In particular, as illustrated in Fig. 2, Patrick discloses a pipe joint that includes the use of a seal ring 30 within an annular recess 32 that includes a polymeric material 34. The polymeric material 34 does not chemically adhere to the threaded portions of both of the tubular members.

Claim 1, as amended, recites an expandable tubular assembly, comprising:
a pair of radially expanded tubular members having radially expanded threaded portions coupled to one another; and
a quantity of a sealant within the radially expanded threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members;
wherein the sealant adheres to the radially expanded threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members.

By contrast, the polymeric material 34 of Patrick does not adhere to the threaded portions of the tubular members. Thus, Patrick does not disclose the invention of claim 1. Furthermore, for at least the same reason, Patrick also does not disclose the invention of claims 2-7, and 28-30, that depend from claim 1.

Claim 45, as amended, recites an expandable tubular assembly, comprising:
a pair of expandable tubular members having threaded portions coupled to one another; and
a quantity of a sealant within the threaded portions of the tubular members;
wherein the coupled threaded portions of the expandable tubular members are located on portions of the expandable tubular members that are deformed following radial expansion of the expandable tubular members;
wherein the sealant adheres to the threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members before, during, and after the radial expansion.

Again, by contrast, the polymeric material 34 of Patrick does not chemically adhere to the threaded portions of the tubular members. Thus, Patrick does not disclose the invention of claim 45.

S/N 09/679,906

Claim 46, as amended, recites an expandable tubular assembly, comprising:
a pair of expandable tubular members having threaded portions coupled to one another; and
means for providing a fluid tight seal between the coupled threaded portions of the pair of expandable tubular members following the radial expansion of the coupled threaded portions of the expandable tubular members;
wherein the means for providing a fluid tight seal adheres to the threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members before, during, and after the radial expansion.

Once again, by contrast, the polymeric material 34 of Patrick does not chemically adhere to the threaded portions of the tubular members. Thus, Patrick does not disclose the invention of claim 46.

The Rejection of Claims 1-6, 28-30, 45 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-6, 28-30, 45, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Knox (U.S. 2,907,589). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Knox generally discloses a sealed joint for tubing. In particular, as illustrated in Fig. 7, Knox discloses a sealed joint for tubing that includes the use of an annular seal 33 within an annular recess provided within the pipe joint. The annular seal 33 does not chemically adhere to the threaded portions of both of the tubular members.

Claim 1, as amended, recites an expandable tubular assembly, comprising:
a pair of radially expanded tubular members having radially expanded threaded portions coupled to one another; and
a quantity of a sealant within the radially expanded threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members;
wherein the sealant adheres to the radially expanded threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members.

S/N 09/679,906

By contrast, the annular seal 33 of Knox does not adhere to the threaded portions of the tubular members. Thus, Knox does not disclose the invention of claim 1. Furthermore, for at least the same reason, Knox also does not disclose the invention of claims 2-7, and 28-30, that depend from claim 1.

Claim 45, as amended, recites an expandable tubular assembly, comprising:
a pair of expandable tubular members having threaded portions coupled to one another; and
a quantity of a sealant within the threaded portions of the tubular members;
wherein the coupled threaded portions of the expandable tubular members are located on portions of the expandable tubular members that are deformed following radial expansion of the expandable tubular members;
wherein the sealant adheres to the threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members before, during, and after the radial expansion.

Again, by contrast, the annular seal 33 of Knox does not chemically adhere to the threaded portions of the tubular members. Thus, Knox does not disclose the invention of claim 45.

Claim 46, as amended, recites an expandable tubular assembly, comprising:
a pair of expandable tubular members having threaded portions coupled to one another; and
means for providing a fluid tight seal between the coupled threaded portions of the pair of expandable tubular members following the radial expansion of the coupled threaded portions of the expandable tubular members;
wherein the means for providing a fluid tight seal adheres to the threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members before, during, and after the radial expansion.

Once again, by contrast, the annular seal 33 of Knox does not chemically adhere to the threaded portions of the tubular members. Thus, Knox does not disclose the invention of claim 46.

S/N 09/679,906

Claims 37, 42, 43, and 47-58:

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter for claims 37, 42, 43, and 47-58.

New claims 59-67:

Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 59 presents the subject matter of claim 7 in independent form. Therefore, claim 59 presents allowable subject matter. Furthermore, for at least the same reasons, claims 60-67, that depend from claim 59 also present allowable subject matter.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the outstanding rejections of claims 1-6, 28-30, and 45-46 are overcome. Furthermore, new claims 59-67 are in condition for allowance.

Unless stated otherwise, none of the amendment to the claims were made for reasons substantially related to the statutory requirements for patentability.

Furthermore, unless stated otherwise, the amendment to the claims were made to simply make express what had been implicit in the claims as originally worded and therefore is not a narrowing amendment that would create any type of prosecution history estoppel.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are drawn to novel subject matter, patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and allow claims presented for reconsideration herein. To the extent that the present amendment results in additional fees, the Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge deposit account no. 08-1394.

S/N 09/679,906

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

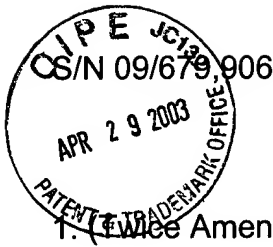
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EXPRESS MAIL NO.: <u>EL262831131US</u>
DATE OF DEPOSIT: <u>April 29, 2003</u>
This paper and fee are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
<u>Michelle Baxter</u>
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Amended Claims

1. (Twice Amended) An expandable tubular assembly, comprising:

a pair of radially expanded tubular members having radially expanded threaded portions coupled to one another; and

a quantity of a sealant within the radially expanded threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members;

wherein the sealant adheres to the radially expanded threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members.

45. (Amended) An expandable tubular assembly, comprising:

a pair of expandable tubular members having threaded portions coupled to one another; and

a quantity of a sealant within the threaded portions of the tubular members;

wherein the coupled threaded portions of the expandable tubular members are located on portions of the expandable tubular members that are deformed following radial expansion of the expandable tubular members;

wherein the sealant adheres to the threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members before, during, and after the radial expansion.

46. (Amended) An expandable tubular assembly, comprising:

a pair of expandable tubular members having threaded portions coupled to one another; and

means for providing a fluid tight seal between the coupled threaded portions of the pair of expandable tubular members following the radial expansion of the coupled threaded portions of the expandable tubular members;

wherein the means for providing a fluid tight seal adheres to the threaded portions of the radially expanded tubular members before, during, and after the radial expansion.